AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A top grinding ring for an EL type pulverizer comprising at least one integral snubber casted as part of the parent material of the top grinding ring and formed as a contour change on an outer edge of the top grinding ring, and a plurality of equally spaced apart flutes extending downwardly from the outer edge of the top grinding ring.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a integral snubber is oriented at an angle α with respect to a radial line originating at a center of the grinding ring, angle α having a value within a range of approximately 15 degrees to approximately 65 degrees.

Claim 3 (original): The top grinding ring according to claim 2, wherein angle α has a value of approximately 28 degrees.

Claim 4 (original): The top grinding ring according to claim 1, further comprising a continuous arcuate grinding track formed on a bottom surface of the top grinding ring and adapted to receive a plurality of pulverizer balls each having an OD and circumference which roll against the arcuate grinding track.

Claim 5 (previously amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 4, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has an arcuate length that is at least 29% of the circumference of one of the plurality of pulverizer balls.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 1 wherein the total circumferential length of all the equally spaced apart flutes exhibits an arcuate length of at least 50% of the total available circumference at the outer edge of the top grinding ring.

Claim 8 (previously amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 4, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has a diameter which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate concentricity.

Claim 9 (previously amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 5, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has an arcuate length which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate curvature.

Claim 10 (previously amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of integral snubbers, each of the integral snubbers being equally spaced around a circumference of the top grinding ring.

Claim 11 (previously amended): An EL type pulverizer, comprising: a housing, a top grinding ring having a continuous arcuate grinding track formed on a bottom surface of

the top grinding ring and adapted to receive a plurality of pulverizer balls each having an OD and circumference, and at least one integral snubber casted as part of the parent material of the top grinding ring and formed on an outer edge of the top grinding ring, snubber attachment means attached to the housing for securing the integral snubber to the housing, and a plurality of equally spaced apart flutes extending downwardly from the outer edge of the top grinding ring.

Claim 12 (previously amended): The pulverizer according to claim 11, wherein the snubber attachment means comprises a snubber bracket assembly including a snubber bracket secured to the pulverizer housing, a wear plate secured to the integral snubber, and a shim pack therebetween for adjusting a clearance between the snubber wear plate and the snubber bracket.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pulverizer according to claim 12, wherein the snubber attachment means is removably secured to the pulverizer housing and to a ~~the~~ integral snubber to permit the snubber attachment means to be installed and dismantled from the pulverizer housing subsequent to top grinding ring installation and removal, the shim pack providing means to adjust or eliminate the clearance between the snubber wear plate and the snubber bracket.

Claim 14 (previously amended): The pulverizer according to claim 11, comprising a bottom grinding ring having a continuous arcuate grinding track formed on a top surface of the bottom grinding ring and adapted to receive a plurality of pulverizer balls each having an OD and circumference which roll against the continuous arcuate grinding track, the bottom grinding ring having an arcuate length that is at least 23% of the total circumference of one of the plurality of pulverizer balls.

Claim 15 (previously amended): The pulverizer according to claim 14, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track formed on the top surface of the bottom grinding ring has a diameter which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate concentricity.

Claim 16 (previously amended): The pulverizer according to claim 14, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track formed on a top surface of the bottom grinding ring has an arcuate length which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate curvature.

Claim 17 (previously amended) The pulverizer according to claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of pulverizer balls has a nominal OD of one of 12-1/4 inches and 13-5/8 inches when in a new condition and first installed in the pulverizer.

Claim 18 (previously amended): A top grinding ring for an EL type pulverizer comprising a plurality of equally spaced apart flutes extending downwardly from an outer edge of the top grinding ring, a continuous arcuate grinding track formed on a bottom surface of the top grinding ring and adapted to receive a plurality of pulverizer balls each having an OD and circumference which roll against the arcuate track, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has an arcuate length that is at least 29% of the circumference of one of the plurality of pulverizer balls.

Claim 19 (previously amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 18, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has a diameter which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate concentricity.

Claim 20 (previously amended): The top grinding ring according to claim 18, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has an arcuate length which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate curvature.

Claim 21 (previously amended): An EL type pulverizer comprising a top and a bottom grinding ring, a continuous arcuate grinding track formed on a top surface of the bottom grinding ring and adapted to receive a plurality of pulverizer balls each having an OD and circumference which roll against the arcuate grinding track, wherein the [continuous arcuate] grinding track has an arcuate length that is at least 23% of the circumference of one of the plurality of pulverizer balls, and a plurality of spaced apart flutes extending downwardly from an outer edge of the top grinding ring.

Claim 22 (previously amended): The pulverizer according to claim 21, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has a diameter which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate concentricity.

Claim 23 (previously amended): The pulverizer according to claim 21, wherein the continuous arcuate grinding track has an arcuate length which is held to a circular tolerance within ±1/16 inches of its ultimate curvature.